

Country

USSR

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Security Information

Subject

Natural Gas Plant at Grozny

25X1A2g

INTELLOFAX 32

Place Acquired by Source

25X1A6a

Date Acquired by Source

C 18767

Date of Information

1930-31

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Source Description -

1. "The plant is located in the North Caucasus district of Russia, on the outskirts of the town of Grozny, about 150 miles east of the Caspian Sea, and about 25 miles north of the foothills of the Caucasian Mountains.
2. "It is doubtful if the plant is now running, for the oil and gas fields of Grozny were declining in the early 1930's. At that time Grozny produced almost one-third of Russia's 200,000,000 bbls., of oil per year, but now Russia's oil is supplemented from other sources. But the largest supply still comes from the Baku district, near the Caspian Sea.
3. "The plant was built to process 10,000,000 cubic feet of gas per day and produce 20,000 gallons of natural gasoline per day. It was built much oversize but probably never reached even this figure. It was completed in 1931.
4. "The plant consisted of absorbers, a still, and the necessary heat exchangers, condensers, receivers, piping, valves and storage tanks. It was built on a plot of about five acres and was surrounded by a high board fence.
5. "Grozny, located on a branch line of the main railroad from Moscow to Baku, was in 1930 an over-grown town of 50,000 people, with one paved street (cobblestone). The gas and petroleum offices were located in a large brick building in town. Army barracks, a technical school, the usual Russian houses, some small apartment buildings, and a few stores made up the rest of the town.
6. "At that time, the Communist in charge of the plant was a former taxi driver. The real work was done by the technologists of the old (Czarist) regime who lived in fear of arrest. Since then the children have grown up and graduated from the schools and have taken over, I assume; how well, I don't know, but not too well, I am sure."

-end-

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